

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Amend page 1, insert the following new paragraph after the Title:

This divisional application claims priority of application number 09/543,531 filed April 6, 2000.

Amend page 1, paragraph beginning at line 8, as follows:

This application is related to, and contain common disclosures with, co-pending and commonly assigned patent applications “Network Processor Processing Complex and Methods”, serial number 09/384,691, filed August 27, 1999; “Longest Prefix Match (LPM) Algorithm Implementation for a Network Processor”, serial number ~~(attorney docket RAL-1999-0140)~~ 09/544,992; and “Software Management Tree Implementation for a Network Processor”, serial number 09/545,100 ~~(attorney docket RAL-1999-0141)~~. Each co-pending patent application is hereby incorporated by reference into this description as fully as if here represented in full.